

WLP

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MSC

Maas Testimony at House Hearings on H.R. 2319.

The following is an excerpt from today's hearings of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, at which the witness was former Representative Melvin J. Maas, President of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association:

BOGGS: (Rep. J. Caleb Boggs, R., Del.) -- Do you believe there is a necessity for centralizing our intelligence activities, as provided in this bill?

MAAS: Yes; but I am not so certain that this bill provides the solution. Certainly we do need to centralize and coordinate our intelligence. But I have grave doubts that this bill provides the proper set-up.

JENKINS: (Rep. Mitchell Jenkins, R., Pa.) -- It has been suggested to me that the Central Intelligence Agency should be entirely divorced from the military establishment and accountable only to the Secretary of National Security or the President, also that it should be headed by a civilian Director. What are your views on these points?

MAAS: I am inclined to believe that it should be headed by a civilian. However, the military must have quite close control of intelligence. They cannot operate without intelligence. That was one of our great failures before the last war. It certainly was a failure of the Japs.

JENKINS: It was suggested to me also that the Director should be accountable directly to the Secretary of National Defense or the President, rather than through the National Security Council. What do you think of that?

MAAS: Frankly, I am not competent to answer that. I have my own views, but I would not attempt to advise the Committee.